

REAR ADMIRAL HARRY P. MAHIN, MEDICAL CORPS, UNITED STATES NAVY

Harry Paul Mahin was born in Canova, South Dakota, on May 14, 1916, son of Dr. F. M. Mahin and Mrs. (Margaret Tangeman) Mahin, both now deceased. He graduated from Ainsworth (Iowa) High School; attended the University of Wichita (Kansas); and received the degree of Bachelor of Science from the University of Iowa at Iowa City in 1938 and the degree of Doctor of Medicine from the University of Louisville (Kentucky) in 1942. Thereafter, he served his internship at Norton Infirmary and St. Joseph Infirmary in Louisville. While attending the University of Louisville, he was appointed Ensign in the Medical Corps of the U. S. Naval Reserve on March 10, 1942 and upon graduation was commissioned Lieutenant (junior grade), to date from May 26, 1942. He subsequently progressed in rank to that of Rear Admiral, to date from August 1, 1969, having transferred from the Naval Reserve to the U. S. Navy on December 28, 1950.

Ordered into active naval service, he interned at the Naval Hospital, Great Lakes, Illinois, from April to July 1943 and the next month joined the USS CELENO (AK-76). While on board that cargo ship, he participated in the consolidation of the Solomonis, the Admiralty Island landings and the assault and occupation of Okinawa Gunto. Detached from the CELENO in December 1945, he reported in January 1946 as Assistant Medical Officer at the Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Illinois. He remained there until April 1946, when he was released from active duty.

During the period of his inactive service, he had surgical training at the Veterans Administration Hospital, Louisville, Kentucky.

Returning to active duty in January 1951, he reported as Ward Medical Officer at the Naval Hospital, Oakland, California, and in October 1951 became Chief of Surgery at the Naval Hospital, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. He was General Surgeon at the Naval Hospital, Great Lakes, Illinois, from August 1953 to August 1955, after which he was a student in surgery at the Graduate School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia.

He was Head of General Surgery at the Naval Hospital, St. Albans, New York, from June 1956 to August 1958, when he transferred to the Naval Hospital, Philadelphia, to serve as Head of Dependents Surgery until July 1959, then as Assistant Chief of Surgery, and from February 1961 as Chief of Surgery. In August 1965 he reported as Executive Officer of the Naval Hospital, San Diego, California, and in May 1967 became Senior Medical Officer at the Station Hospital and Head of the Medical Department at the Naval Support Activity, Danang, Republic of Vietnam. "For exceptionally meritorious conduct...from May 1967 to March 1968..." he was awarded the Legion of Merit. The citation further states in part:

"Captain Mahin directed the operation of the largest casualty receiving and staging hospital in Vietnam, admitting 13,000 patients annually and administering over 207,000 out patient visits. Responsible for the general planning of major medical facilities in the I Corps Tactical Zone, he fostered the rapid and orderly expansion of the Station Hospital from 404 beds to 710 beds and through his keen foresight initiated the timely planning for an additional 400-bed unit to meet the support requirements for increased troop strength. By his unceasing desire to provide better patient care, (he) began the Casualty Reporting Study to obtain detailed information on circumstances and extent of wounds of all casualties admitted to the Station Hospital and initiated a formal intra-service agreement for shock and resuscitation study efforts..."

He is also entitled to the Ribbon for, and a facsimile of the Navy Unit Commendation awarded the Naval Support Activity, Danang.

In June 1968 he became Commanding Officer of the Naval Hospital, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and District Medical Officer of the Fourth Naval District, headquartered in Philadelphia and in August 1969 assumed command of the Naval Hospital, Oakland, California. He was ordered detached in June 1972 for duty as Inspector General, Medical, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Navy Department, Washington, D. C.

In addition to the Legion of Merit and the Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon, Rear Admiral Mahin has the American Campaign Medal; Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal; World War II Victory Medal; Navy Occupation Service Medal, Asia Clasp; National Defense Service Medal with bronze star; and the Vietnam Service Medal. He also has the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device.

His official home address is 925 North Illinois Street, Arlington Heights, Illinois. He is married to the former Carrie B. Gaddis of Ware Shoals, South Carolina, and they have two sons, Patrick Lee and Michael Paul Mahin.

Dr. Mahin is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons and the Philadelphia Academy of Surgery and a Diplomate of the American Board of Surgery.

Navy Office of Information
Biographies Branch (OI-0111)
24 July 1972

CURRICULUM VITAE

RADM H. P. MAHIN, MC, USN

Born: Canova, South Dakota, son of a physician
Raised and schooled in Iowa

Graduated High School: 1933 - Ainsworth, Iowa

Attended: University of Wichita (Kansas) 1934-35
University of Iowa 1935-1938
University of Louisville School of Medicine 1938-42

Internship: St. Joseph Infirmary, Louisville and U.S. Naval Hospital,
Great Lakes, 1942-43

Commissioned Ensign H(V)P USNR while in Medical School

Sea Duty: U.S.S. Celeno (AK76) Pacific Theatre, July 1943-December 1945

Duty at Naval Station, Great Lakes, December 1945 to April 1946

RAD 1946

Resident in Pathology - V.A. Hospital, Louisville, 1946-47

Resident in General Surgery - V.A. Hospital, Louisville, 1947-51

Returned to Active Duty from the organized Reserve (Marine Corps Rifle Co.)
in 1951

1951-Naval Hospital, Oakland, General Surgery Staff

1951-1953 - U.S. Naval Hospital, Guantanamo Bay, Chief of Surgery

1953-1955 - U.S. Naval Hospital, Great Lakes, Staff General Surgery

1955-1956 - University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Medicine

1956-1958 - U.S. Naval Hospital, St. Albans, Head of General Surgery

1958-1959 - U.S. Naval Hospital, Philadelphia, Head of Dependents Surgery

1959-1961 - U.S. Naval Hospital, Philadelphia, Assistant Chief of Surgery
1961-1965 - U.S. Naval Hospital, Philadelphia, Chief of Surgery
1965-1967 - U.S. Naval Hospital, San Diego, Executive Officer
1967-1968 - Naval Support Activity, Danang RVN, Staff Medical Officer
and Commanding Officer of NSA Hospital
1968-1969 - Naval Hospital, Philadelphia, Commanding Officer
1969-1972 - Naval Hospital, Oakland, Commanding Officer
1972-1974 - Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Inspector General, Medical

Military Decorations: Legion of Merit
Meritorious Service Medal
Combat Action Ribbon

Unit Awards: Navy Unit Commendation (RVN)
Meritorious Unit Commendation (Oakland and Philadelphia)

Campaign Awards: American Campaign Medal
Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal (2 stars)
World War II Victory Medal
Navy Occupation Service Medal
National Defense Service Medal
V.N. Service Medal (4 stars)
RVN Meritorious Unit Citation
RVN Campaign Medal

Professional Societies: Certified by the American Board of Surgery
Fellow, American College of Surgeons
Fellow, Philadelphia Academy of Surgeons

Married to Carrie Gaddis of Ware Shoals, South Carolina

Two Children: Patrick, LTJG, MSC
Michael, Student at University of Munich